



Our Mission

The legislature declares that, in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified and improper practice of social work, it is necessary that a proper regulatory authority be established and adequately provided for.

SPRING 2016

News | Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

18550 Highland Road, Suite B | Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Phone: (225) 756.3470 | 800.521.1941 (LA Only)
Email: socialwork@labswe.org | www.labswe.org

From The Chair

The work of the rules committee is almost complete; it is now time to turn it over to you for public comment. As you may recall, the rules we looked at fell into four major categories: electronic social work, standards of practice, supervision, and continuing education.

We also have a committee that has been working on revising the "Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations". This committee tabled their work due to word of pending legislation that could affect these guidelines. The committee should be able to proceed after the legislative session.

Processing the ideas of electronic social work was relatively complex. We based our work on the ASWB Guidelines on Electronic Social Work. The committee debated having a separate section in our rules to address the topic versus adjusting some of our existing rules to reflect electronic social work. We did realize that our existing rules do cover the ASWB Guidelines, so in the end, we included definitions related to Electronic Social Work. Most important is making sure your social media lives up to public scrutiny.

In standards of practice we tried to clarify some of the existing rules. Look for changes under records and dual relationships. We have had some complaints about sexual harassment by colleagues, so we wanted to include it as a violation somewhere within our rules.

Everyone will likely be happy about the proposed changes to the rules for LMSW's seeking the LCSW credential. We have cleaned up much of the language and tried to clarify the requirements for supervision. There is also more clarification for Board Approved Clinical Supervisors (BACS).

Under continuing education, we are trying to make it possible for social workers with extenuating circumstances to obtain all of their continuing education on-line. Currently, we are only able to grant them extensions. There are also some ideas in this section for continuing education opportunities.

The above is not inclusive of all of the proposed changes. Please read them in this newsletter and respond by writing to us at edeangelo@labswe.org. Public comment is an important part of this process, so we appreciate your input.

Thanks, Judy Haspel, LCSW

Judith Haspel, LCSW
Chairperson
New Orleans, LA

Yolanda Burnom, LCSW
Vice Chairperson
Shreveport, LA

Carla Moore, LMSW
Secretary- Treasurer
Baton Rouge, LA

Peggy Salley, LCSW
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Robert Showers, RSW
Board Member
Independence, LA

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Board Member
New Orleans, LA

Paulette H. Walker, M. Ed.
Public Member
Ponchatoula, LA

BOARD MEMBERS

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Continuing Education Extension Requests

The Practice Act and the Rules, Standards and Procedures allow the board to extend the time frame to collect continuing education in response to extenuating circumstances which affected the social worker's ability to obtain the continuing education hours required to renew his/her license. Examples of extenuating circumstances include, but are not necessarily limited to, a licensee's serious medical condition, a licensee residing in a country where social work continuing education is not available, or a licensee's care of an immediate family member with a serious medical condition. They are considered on a case-by-case basis by the board, and documentation of the extenuating circumstance is required.

The number of requests for extensions has grown, with many of the requests from social workers not having extenuating circumstances to support their requests. The Practice Act in §2714(A)(2) reads, "Twenty clock hours of continuing education in programs approved by the board shall be obtained prior to each renewal date, including three hours of ethics every two years. In addition, for renewal of a licensed clinical social work license, no less than ten clock hours of the continuing education requirement shall be clinical content including diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders. **Failure to fulfill these requirements shall cause the license, certificate, or registration to**

lapse, and any application for renewal will be declined until the continuing education requirements have been met."

The collection period for continuing education is July 1 through June 30. Continuing education should be collected by June 30. Licenses lapse on August 31 annually. According to the statute in the previous paragraph, a social worker's license cannot be renewed until the continuing education requirements have been met. Using this as guidance, a social worker who does not complete his/her continuing education by June 30 and does not have an extenuating circumstance in which to get approval for an extension, will have his/her license lapse on August 31. The social worker can renew up until February 28 (see §2714.C.), conditionally of completing the required continuing education, but cannot practice social work effective September 1 until such time as the license is renewed.

We sometimes hear that cost is a factor in obtaining continuing education. Rule 317(M) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures are the approved learning forums for continuing education. There are many low cost/no cost ways to obtain continuing education. A couple examples of low cost/no cost continuing education are attending LABSWE board meetings and forming a study group of three or more participants to research, discuss, etc. social work topics. Hospitals and universities are also a source of free continuing education opportunities.



CREDIT CARD PROCESSING FEE

This is notification that as of June 1, 2016, there will be a \$3.00 service charge addition to all electronic commerce with the Board, including applications and renewals.



NEW DATABASE AND WEBSITE



The new database and website will launch June 1, 2016. Social workers will have a dashboard that will allow them to view information, as well as update their information. The sections of the social worker's dashboard will be "My Info", "Employment", "CEU", "Fees", "Forms", and "Discipline". My Info will include the social worker's personal information and the qualifications met to obtain his/her credential. The

Employment section will house employment information, as well as supervision information. The CEU section will be the place that social workers upload their continuing education certificates. The Fees section will allow social workers to view and print receipts for payments. Forms will include a request for verification of license, request for a duplicate license, renewal application, and other applications. Discipline will not be used by most. It will be where requirements following disciplinary action will be housed as a helpful tool to remember when items are due.

Attention Board Approved Clinical Supervisors:

The continuing education requirement to maintain Board Approved Clinical Supervisor (BACS) designation is to complete three (3) hours of continuing education in clinical supervision every other year. The current collection period for the hours began July 1, 2014 and ends on **June 30, 2016**. All BACS need to submit their certificate of completion to the board office on or before June 30, 2016. The certificate can be mailed, faxed or emailed.

If you haven't obtained the hours thus far, here are a few workshops LABSWE has been made aware of:

June 3, 2016: 1:00-4:30 p.m.

TUSW 127 Elks Place

Faculty Conference Room – 4th Floor

"Journaling as a Tool in Clinical Supervision" presented by Laury A. Bourgeois, LCSW-BACS

For more information contact Bonnie Lister – Phone (504) 865-5314

May 26: Alexandria (VA Hospital, Pineville)

May 2: Lafayette (Family Tree)

June 2: Bossier City (Willis Knighton Innovation Center)

June 3: West Monroe (TBD)

June 10: Covington (Covington Convention Center)

For more information go to www.socialwork.lsu.edu

May 20: Monroe - "Invitations for Growth: Gentle Models for Confrontation in Clinical Supervision"

June 3: Baton Rouge - "Clinical Supervision for the Advanced Board Approved Clinical Supervisor"

June 10: Alexandria – "Invitations for Growth: Gentle Models for Confrontation in Clinical Supervision"

For more information go to www.naswla.org

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RULES, STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

The following changes and additions to the Rules, Standards and Procedures are being proposed. The Financial and Economic Impact Statement has been filed with the state's Fiscal Office. Once that is approved, the Notice of Intent will be filed in the *LA Register*.

LABSWE will hold a public hearing at the board office on Thursday, May 19, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. to receive comments on the proposed changes.

Revision means the current rule requires a change. Addition means that a new rule is recommended. Deletion means that it is recommended that the item be removed from the rules. Please note that the final approved version of the rules will be re-lettered and numbered to follow appropriate sequence.

§111(G)(4)

Revision: Social work students in field placement are specifically allowed to provide services under supervision. Social work supervisors ~~may~~ who do cosign all records ~~shall~~ indicate his/her supervisory function.

§111(G)(7)

Addition: A social worker shall not access records of a client they are not treating without legitimate purpose.

§113(B)(3)

Revision: Sexual Intimacy or Contact with a Client, Supervisee or Student. A social worker shall not engage in or request sexual intimacy or contact as defined in §113.B.5, with a client, a client's spouse or former spouse, any member of the client's immediate family or with any person with whom the client has a sexual relationship. The prohibition of this rule extends to supervisees and students during such times and under such circumstances where the social worker is in a supervisory or teaching relationship. This rule also expressly prohibits social workers from engaging in any behavior which a reasonable person would find sexually stimulating, seductive or sexually demeaning when such behavior is either directed toward or exhibited in the presence of any person with

whom sexual contact is otherwise prohibited by this rule. Social workers shall not sexually harass a client, colleague, supervisee or student.

§115(D)(2)

Revision: where communications to the social worker reveal abuse or neglect of children and elders which impose an obligation on social workers as mandatory reporters under the Louisiana Children's Code Article 609, R.S. 14:403, and R.S. 14:403.2; this excludes social workers on legal defense team for juveniles as defined by Article 603 (b) of the Louisiana Children's Code.

§301. Definitions

Additions:

Electronic social work services means the use of computers (including the internet, social media, on line chat, text, and email) and other electronic means (such as smartphones, landline telephones and video technology) to (a) provide information to the public, (b) deliver social work services to clients, (c) communicate with clients, (d) manage confidential information and case records, (e) store and access information about clients, and (f) arrange payment for professional services.

In-person refers to interactions in which the social worker and the client are in the same physical space and does not include interactions that may occur through the use of technology.

Remote refers to the provision of a service that is received at a different site from where the social worker is physically located. Remote includes no consideration related to distance and may refer to a site near to or far from the social worker.

Sexual harassment – includes sexual advances, sexual solicitation, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

§317. Continuing Education Requirements

Additions:

The board may grant a social worker approval to complete more than 10 hours of continuing education via distance learning in the case of catastrophic medical condition. The licensee

shall provide sufficient documentation for such an action.

The board may grant a social worker approval to complete more than 10 hours of continuing education via distance learning if the social worker resides out of United States territories where no in-person continuing education is available. The licensee shall provide sufficient documentation for such an action.

§317(M)

Additions:

Reading books or journal articles with content applicable to social work and followed by a face-to-face discussion as part of an organized workshop. A maximum of one hour of credit can be obtained from reading a book if the social worker, signs a statement that he/she read the book, attends the discussion about the book, and passes the pre-test administered prior to the face-to-face discussion with at least 70%. The one hour of credit for reading is considered distance learning. Credit for the discussion counts as actual time spent in the discussion and counts as in-person continuing education.

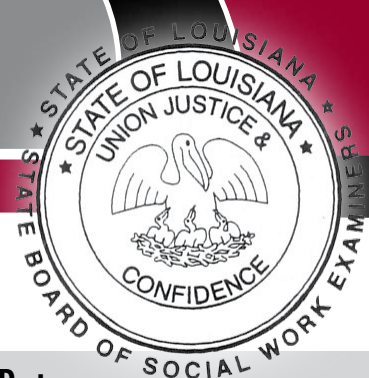
Viewing documentary film with content applicable to social work practice not deemed for general public and followed by a face-to-face discussion. Film shall be pre-approved by LABSWE and must rate a 10 or higher on the Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education to qualify for continuing education credit.

§503(C)

Revision: Effective August 15, 2007, LMSWs seeking the LCSW credential must complete a minimum of 5760 hours of postgraduate social work practice and at least 3840 hours of that postgraduate social work practice must be under the supervision of a board approved clinical supervisor (BACS).

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LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



North American Pass Rates For the ASWB Examinations 2015

Exam Category and Group Type	Total Number of Examinations	Pass Rate	
		Number	Percentage
Associate			
First-Time	776	523	67.4
Repeat Group	345	153	44.3
Total Group	1,121	676	60.3
Bachelors			
First-Time	4,059	3,145	77.5
Repeat Group	865	351	40.6
Total Group	4,924	3,496	71.0
Masters			
First-Time	15,145	12,198	80.5
Repeat Group	4,573	1,320	28.9
Total Group	19,718	13,518	68.6
Advanced Generalist			
First-Time	196	127	64.8
Repeat Group	54	16	29.6
Total Group	250	143	57.2
Clinical			
First-Time	12,981	9,872	76.0
Repeat Group	5,284	1,845	34.9
Total Group	18,265	11,717	64.2
Total	44,278	29,550	66.7

Pass Rates of LA in 2015

Exam Category and Group Type	Total Number of Examinations	Pass Rate	
		Number	Percentage
Masters			
First-Time	340	202	59.4
Repeat Group	355	62	17.5
Total Group	695	264	38.0
Clinical			
First-Time	181	124	68.5
Repeat Group	94	28	29.8
Total Group	275	152	55.3
Total	970	416	42.9

§503(D),(E),(F),(G)

Deletions:

D. LMSW postgraduate social work practice and postgraduate BACS supervised social work practice for LMSW seeking the LCSW credential, which practice occurred prior to August 15, 2007, will be calculated by the board based on the prior requirements of at least 36 accumulated months of full-time postgraduate social work practice and 24 accumulated months of BACS supervised practice. In order to qualify for the appropriate credits, the postgraduate practice and the postgraduate supervised practice shall be in conformity with board rules governing such practice at that time. Copies of those prior rules and forms relating to postgraduate practice and supervised postgraduate practice can be obtained from the board office or the board's web site.

E. Notwithstanding Subsection C of this Section, LMSWs seeking the LCSW credential who have completed the 36-month postgraduate practice requirement and the 24-month postgraduate BACS supervised practice requirement prior to August 15, 2007 and who provide documentation thereof in conformity with applicable board rules and forms will be eligible for the LCSW examination and license.

F. LMSWs whose postgraduate social work practice or BACS supervised postgraduate social work practice occurs both before August 15, 2007 and after August 15, 2007 will be credited by the board based on the application of Subsection D of this Section (monthly calculation) for the postgraduate practice occurring prior to August 15, 2007 and based on Subsection C of this Section (hourly calculation) for postgraduate practice occurring after August 15, 2007. In order for LMSWs to determine whether they have obtained the total number of postgraduate credits necessary to qualify for LCSW examination and license, LMSWs will employ the conversion formula provided in Subsection G of this Section prior to the submission of their completed supervision documentation forms to the board.

G.1. To calculate total postgraduate social work practice, a ratio is formed with the numerator (number above the line) equal to the number of months of postgraduate social work practice completed prior to August 15, 2007 and with the denominator or divisor (number below the line) equal to 36. The resulting percentage is then multiplied times 5760 in order to convert the monthly credits into hourly credits. That hourly credit is then subtracted from 5760 to determine the number of hours of postgraduate practice

after August 15, 2007 which are necessary to complete the requirement.

2. To calculate total postgraduate social work BACS supervised practice, a ratio is formed with the numerator equal to the number of months of postgraduate social work BACS supervised practice completed prior to August 15, 2007 and with the denominator equal to 24. The resulting percentage is then multiplied times 3840 in order to convert the monthly credits into hourly credits. That hourly credit is then subtracted from 3840 to determine the number of hours of postgraduate BACS supervised practice after August 15, 2007 which are necessary to complete the requirement.

3. Example of Calculations. LMSW prior to August 15, 2007 completed 24 months of postgraduate practice 13 of which qualified as BACS supervised. Two ratios of 24/36 and 13/24 are formed. The resulting percentages, (66.67 percent of the postgraduate practice requirement and 54.17 percent of the supervision requirement) are then multiplied times the total hourly requirement in each category. In the example, the GSW converts by multiplying 66.67 percent times 5,760 to obtain 3840 hours of postgraduate practice credit for social work performed prior to August 15, 2007. The LMSW determines that 1920 hours of postgraduate social work practice after August 15, 2007 are required by subtracting 3,840 by 5,760. Likewise the LMSW converts by multiplying 54.17 percent times 3,840 to obtain the 2080 hours of postgraduate BACS supervised practice credit performed prior to August 15, 2007. The LMSW determines that 1760 hours of postgraduate social work practice after August 15, 2007 are required by subtracting 2,080 from 3,840.

§503(H)

Revised: The requirement for supervision is at least 2 hours of face-to-face supervision with a BACS during every 80 hours increment of postgraduate social work practice. This hourly supervision requirement applies to each consecutive increment of 80 hours of social work practice. Postgraduate social work practice which exceeds 80 consecutive hours of practice without at least two hours of face-to-face BACS supervision will not be credited to the 3,840 hours of supervised practice.

§503(J)

Revised: A minimum of 1 session per month is required. Supervision segments of no fewer than 30 minutes and no longer than 2 hours per session day will be counted toward meeting the supervision requirement.

§503(N)

Revised: The supervisor has a professional responsibility to honor his/her commitment to supervise responsibly, which includes submitting forms on a timely basis. Should the supervisor fail to submit forms appropriately, legibly, and on a timely basis, the board reserves the right to withdraw the BACS designation from the supervisor.

§503(R)

Revised: The original Supervision Agreement/Plan of Supervision must be submitted to the board office within 60 days of the first supervision session. A Supervision Agreement/Plan of Supervision shall be submitted on each supervision experience, such as a change in employment and/or a change in supervisor.

§503(X)(2)

Revised: the supervisor is/was licensed at the time of supervision at a level substantially equivalent to a LCSW-BACS in the other state and submits the license verification of out-of-state supervisor form (available from board office); or

§503(X)(3)

Deleted: the supervisor was certified by the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW) at the time of supervision, which the supervisor must verify.

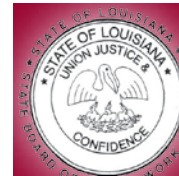
§507(B)(4)

Addition: If LCSW loses BACS because of missed training, he/she must cease supervising LMSWs for LCSW.

§507(C)(1),(2)

Addition: To reinstate BACS designation, the social worker must:

1. Complete 3 hours of continuing education in the area of clinical supervision
2. Complete a board orientation workshop



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